

MEETING OF THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy Dover, Delaware, on November 20, 2019 **with the following members in attendance:**

- Chairman Robert Garey
- William H. Chip Narvel, Jr.
- L. Allen Messick, Jr.
- Janice Truitt
- Colleen Davis
- Peter Martin
- Raymond E. Bivens
- Robert Emerson

Absent:

- Secretary Michael T. Scuse
- William Vanderwende
- Theodore Bobola, Jr.

The following Foundation staff members were in attendance:

- Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Milton Melendez
- Howard Mesick
- Kathi Spangler
- Carrie Wanstall
- Jimmy Kroon
- Scott Blaier

Others in attendance:

- Kyle Hoyd, Delaware Forest Service
- Christina Bell, Belfint, Lyons & Shuman
- Terry Lawson, DelDOT

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 AM.

I. Preservation Districts:

A. Current Situation Report:

Scott Blaier informed the Board there are currently 1,295 approved and pending districts and expansions in the program encompassing 174,049 acres. There are 106 easements pending

settlement for Round 23 and 6 easements pending settlement for Round 22 and 1 easement pending settlement for Round 21; once these are settled there will be 1,004 agricultural easements encompassing approximately 133,933 acres at an approximate cost of \$234,960,607. A total of 45 new applications for calendar year 2019 have been received, totaling 3,915 acres. The preserved lands for Farmland and Forestland Preservation (once Round 21, Round 22 and Round 23 easements settle) will total 1,018 easements encompassing 135,011 acres with an acquisition cost of \$236,524,645.

B. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short advised the Board that the Round 9 Young Farmer Loan applicant, Matthew and Jessica Gilbert, have the necessary funding in conjunction with their Young Farmer loan to purchase their farm. Consequently, we will now proceed with the survey of the farm and hope to schedule settlement in early 2020.

Ms. Janice Truitt asked about the 18 Young Farmer Loan applicants that were denied or no longer qualified. Austin replied that many of these applicants originally prequalified but now exceed the age of 40 and thus no longer qualify for the program.

Chairman Robert Garey advised the Board that Delaware Farm Bureau will provide him time during their annual conference to discuss the Young Farmers Program. The Farm Bureau also included an article on the Young Farmer Program in their recent newsletter.

C. District Eligibility

- 1. Vanderwende II District (S-19-11-289) *Contingent Sale*** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for district eligibility of Vanderwende II District, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved. Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. abstained from voting because he is related to the applicant.**
- 2. The Sheats Tract District (K-19-09-290)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for district eligibility of The Sheats Tract District, second by Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

D. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval

- 1. Petersen Farm Expansion II of the Wild & Free District (S-19-11-218D) *Contingent Sale*** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
- 2. Baker Expansion of the Ledenham-Vanderwende District (S-19-07-150Q)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, seconded by Mr. Raymond E. Bivens. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. **Windy Day Farms, LLC Expansion of the Willow Grove District (S-19-05-025N)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. Raymond E. Bivens moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**
4. **Gray Farm Expansion of the Masten Partners, LP I District (K-19-08-238A)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
5. **Donovan Farm Expansion of the Expansion of the Masten Partners, LP I District (K-19-08-238B)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**
6. **In Front of Bruce Expansion of the Collins Acres District (S-19-08-065V)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. Peter Martin. Motion unanimously approved.**
7. **Besty Expansion of the Collins Brothers Farm #1 District (S-19-08-286B)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**
8. **Home Farm Expansion of the Collins Brothers Farm #1 District (S-19-08-286C)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
9. **Homestead Expansion of the Collins District (S-17-12-021J)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

E. Forestland Eligibility & Final Approval

1. **Crooked Tree Farm Forestland Preservation Area (F-K-19-08-043I)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Colleen Davis moved to accept for forestland eligibility and final approval, second by Mr. Peter Martin. Motion unanimously approved.**

II. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Michael T. Scuse, waived his right of veto for the above Expansions and Final Approval applications.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

IV. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the September 18, 2019 meeting minutes that were mailed or emailed to Board Members prior to today's meeting. **Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. moved to approve the September 18, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Financial Highlights:

The **September 30, 2019** Financial Statements were presented by Howard Mesick, who reported that Funds Held by the State were \$153,005.24 and funds in the State Interest Bearing Account were \$339,622.54 for a total of \$492,627.78. Monthly income of \$995.05 was comprised of interest income of \$951.59 and Kent County Rollback income of \$43.46. September Ordinary Total Expenses were \$39,552.56 and under Other Income/Expense Loan Payment Wilson Farm of \$52,769.07 resulting in September Net Income of negative \$38,992.51. Net Income for the year is \$199,141.73. **Ms. Janice Truitt motioned to accept the September 30, 2019 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Mr. Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

The **October 31, 2019** Financial Statements were presented by Howard Mesick, who reported that Funds Held by the State were \$54,929.31 and funds in the State Interest Bearing Account were \$341,977.07 for a total of \$396,906.38. Monthly income of \$2,354.53 was comprised of interest income of \$852.49, Kent County Rollback income of \$382.04 and Plates Income of \$1,120.00. October Ordinary Total Expenses were \$24,908.17 and under Other Income/Expense a Previous Fiscal Year (FY) Funds Transfer of leftover DDA Pesticides funds of \$81,000.00 resulting in October Net Income of negative \$22,553.64. Net Income for the year is \$95,588.09. **Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. motioned to accept the October 31, 2019 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Ms. Colleen Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

VII. Other Business

1. **DelDOT Millsboro Bypass partial acquisition of the Chorman Expansion (S-02-02-037D)**
Scott Blaier provided an overview of the proposed project. DelDOT will acquire a portion of this district as part of their north Millsboro bypass. Ms. Terry Lawson, with DelDOT, attended to answer question and concerns. After discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. moved to accept the DelDOT Millsboro Bypass partial acquisition of the Chorman Expansion, second by Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. **Presentation of Foundation FY18 Financial Statements including the Independent Auditor's Report - Belfint, Lyons & Shuman.** Ms. Christina Bell provided an overview of the FY18 Financial Statements to the Board. Howard Mesick distributed a copy of the auditor's letter and the auditor's report to each Foundation trustee; the report included the Financial Statements and Supplementary Information. Ms. Bell reviewed the report and noted there were no findings or deficiencies. After discussion and examination of the Auditor's Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept the FY18 Financial Statements including the Independent Auditor's Report-Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, second by Mr. William "Chip" Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation is **Wednesday December 18, 2019**, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Garey
Chairman